

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-35 and 37-48 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 12 and 34 and adds Claims 46-48 without introducing any new matter or raising new issues.

Claims 1- 35 and 37-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Savage, III et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0009014, herein "Savage") in view of Burridge (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,567), Jong (U.S. Patent No. 6,173,250) and Mauney (U.S. Pat. No. 6,484,027).

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), that rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

interconnecting the at least two communication terminals for a communication round via a communication network, if in said verifying access conditions were met, and transmitting a data of a spoken language through said communication network, if the at least two communication participants have selected the common communication forum...

managing said selecting, verifying, and interconnecting using **only a single chat server**. [Emphasis added].

Claims 12 and 34 recite similar features.

Savage describes that the network operating center (NOC) is composed of one Dispatch Server and a farm of Media Servers, and is in charge of managing users' connections to the different conferences. Further, users make a first connection request to the Dispatch server, the Dispatch Server then uses an internal mechanism to figure out the Media Server running the corresponding conference or to create a completely new

conference. Users are then given the connection data of the corresponding Media Server and make a second connection request directly to this Media Server.

In contrast Claim 1 recites managing said selecting, verifying, and interconnecting using **only a single chat server**. Thus the users need only each make one connection request, saving bandwidth and time.

Accordingly as Savage does not describe the above features are carried out on a single server, Savage does not describe or suggest managing said selecting, verifying, and interconnecting using only a single chat server.

Additionally, the further cited Burridge, Jong, and Mauney references do not cure the above noted deficiencies of Savage.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 and similarly Claims 12 and 34 patentably distinguish over Savage, Burridge, Jong, and Mauney considered individually or in any proper combination.

Turning now to the newly added Claims 46-48, initially Applicants thank Examiner Lezak for the courtesy of an interview on September 12, 2006.

During the discussion, differences between the present invention and the applied reference were discussed. The present response sets forth the discussed features in the added claims and the following remarks set forth the discussed differences.

Claim 46 includes the feature, wherein various menu options relating to function of the common communication forum are transmitted to the at least two communication terminals by spoken language. This feature is not described or suggested in Savage, nor is this feature described in the further cited Burridge, Jong, and Mauney references.

Claim 47 includes the feature wherein the communication participants are able to transmit, to a command module of the common communication forum, direct, spoken keywords corresponding to commands for the common communication forum. As with the

features of Claim 46, this feature is not described or suggested in Savage, nor is this feature described in the further cited Burridge, Jong, and Mauney references.

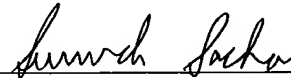
Claim 48 includes the feature that the common communication forum can be defined such that it relates to a temporally and geographically limited event. As with the features of Claim 46 and 47 above, this feature is not described or suggested in Savage, nor is this feature described in the further cited Burridge, Jong, and Mauney references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that newly added Claims 46-48 patentably distinguish over Savage, Burridge, Jong, and Mauney considered individually or in any proper combination.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423